

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252

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PASS TO DEPT OF JUSTICE FRANK NILAND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, US, ASEC

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS BY YESHIVA STUDENTS OF MISTREATMENT
BY U.N. GUARDS

REF: USUN 1939

1. ASYG ROBERT RYAN HAS RESPONDED TO NEW YORK CITY
COMMISSIONER FOR THE U.N., LOEB, WITH LETTER DATED MAY
23, 1974, SETTING FORTH U.N. POSITION WITH REGARD TO
COMPLAINT REGISTERED WITH OFFICE OF MAYOR ABRAHAM BEAME.
TEXT OF RYAN LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. CLAYTON C.
TIMBRELL, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES, AND MR.
JAMES FINORE, ACTING CHIEF, SECURITY AND SAFETY SECTION,
I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT UPON THE STATEMENTS MADE IN A
LETTER RECEIVED IN OFFICE OF MAYOR OF CITY OF NEW YORK
ON 22 MAY 1974, WHICH MAKES CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING
ACTIVITIES OF A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS AT THE UN ON
20 MAY 1974.

"THE ALLEGATIONS AND FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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(A) THE LETTER STATES THAT DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE

CONDUCTING A "SIT IN" IN LOBBY OF UN BUILDING
"INFORMED THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF SECURITY THAT WE
WERE WILLING TO LEAVE AS SOON AS WE MADE A STATE-
MENT TO THE PRESS."

'IT IS TRUE THIS IS WHAT THEY TOLD ACTING
CHIEF OF SECURITY. THE FACTS ARE THAT ACTING CHIEF
OF SECURITY ARRANGED FOR SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PRESS
TO COME TO LOBBY TO HEAR DEMONSTRATORS. UPON THEIR
ARRIVAL, DEMONSTRATORS WOULD NOT SPEAK TO THE
CORRESPONDENTS BUT INVITED THEM TO JOIN "SIT IN."
THE ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW FOUR MEMBERS OF PRESS,
MESSRS. BERLIN, NY POST, BRIA, A.P., MUNN, UPI, AND
ENDRST, RADIO FREE EUROPE, WHO HAD COME AT REQUEST
OF ACTING CHIEF OF SECURITY, TO INTERVIEW DEMONSTRATORS.
IT IS CLEAR THAT DEMONSTRATORS HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK TO PRESS AND DID NOT LEAVE PREMISES AFTER
PRESS APPEARED. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT
ON 20 MAY 1974 NY DAILY NEWS PRINTED A REPORT ON THE
INCIDENT AND NO MENTION WAS MADE OF BRUTALITY BY UN
GUARDS.

(B) "ABOUT 30 UNITED NATIONS GUARDS, WITHOUT ANY WARNING
WHATSOEVER, SET UPON US AND THE STUDENTS."

'THE FACTS ARE THAT DURING A PERIOD OF ALMOST
30 MINUTES DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPEATEDLY ASKED
TO LEAVE PEACEFULLY. IT WAS ONLY WHEN IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY THAT
UN GUARDS REMOVED THE DEMONSTRATORS FROM LOBBY.

(C) "MANY OF US WERE BRUTALLY BEATEN AND DRAGGED OUT OF
THE LOBBY. ONE OF THE STUDENTS WAS HIT AT THE BASE
OF THE SPINE SO SEVERELY THAT HE COULD NOT WALK."

'NO DEMONSTRATOR WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN. THE UN
GUARDS ACTED WITH UTMOST RESTRAINT DESPITE DELIBERATE
PROVOCATIONS. IT IS TRUE THAT SOME OF DEMONSTRATORS
WERE DRAGGED FROM LOBBY SINCE THEY REFUSED TO LEAVE
UNDER THEIR OWN POWER. ALL OF THEM HAD LOCKED ARMS
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IN DEFINANCE OF LAWFUL AND REASONABLE REQUEST TO
DEPART AND GUARDS HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DRAG
THEM OUT.

(D) "THE SKULL CAPS OF MAY OF THE MALE STUDENTS WERE
DELIBERATELY KNOCKED OFF."

'ONE OF THE GUARDS REALIZED THAT IF THE SKULL

CAPS WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR HEADS MALE DEMONSTRATORS WOULD UNLINK THEIR ARMS AND BREAK RANKS IN ORDER TO RETRIEVE THE CAPS. ONCE A DEMONSTRATOR WAS SEPARATED, IT WAS LESS DIFFICULT FOR THE GUARDS TO REMOVE HIM.

(E) " A NUMBER OF THE GUARDS UTTERED ANTI-SEMITIC EPITHETS."

'THIS IS A SELF-SERVING CHARGE THAT WARRANTS A FLAT DENIAL. THE TWENTY-EIGHT YEAR HISTORY OF THE SECURITY STAFF OF UN IS A TESTIMONY TO ITS TOLERANCE AND LACK OF BIAS.

(F) " SEVERAL GUARDS REMOVED THEIR SHIELDS BEFORE THEY ATTACKED US SO WE COULD NOT OBTAIN THEIR IDENTIFICATION."

'THIS IS UNTRUE. THE REMOVAL OF DEMONSTRATORS WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF SECURITY FORCE AND ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY NOTED AND GUARD SO DOING WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION. SOME NON-UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF SECURITY SECTION PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS AND, OF COURSE, THEY WERE NOT WEARING BADGES.

'IN CONTRAST TO THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN LETTER TO MAYOR BEAM, YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT DURING DEMONSTRATIONS:

1. THREATS WERE MADE BY DEMONSTRATORS THAT THEY WOULD OBTAIN ADDRESSES OF, AND WOULD INJURE CHILDREN AND WIVES OF GUARDS.

2. RACIAL EPITHETS WERE USED BY DEMONSTRATORS WHEN YELLING
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AT CERTAIN UN GUARDS.

3. THREE GUARDS REQUIRED TREATMENT IN UN CLINIC FOR INJURIES RECEIVED AT HANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS, AND THERE WERE SEVERAL LESSER INJURIES.

'I THINK IT ALSO OF INTEREST THAT AN EVEN LARGER DEMONSTRATION BY THIS SAME GROUP TOOK PLACE ONLY FOUR DAYS EARLIER AND UN SECURITY FORCE USED SAME PROCEDURES ON THAT DAY AS IT DID ON 20 MAY 1974. THERE WERE NO CHARGES OF BRUTALITY OR UNDUE FORCE ON 16 MAY 1974. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS QUITE APPARENT THAT UN SECURITY STAFF DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL FOREBERANCE, JUDGMENT AND RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH A GROUP OF PERSONS WHO WERE WILLFULLY AND DELIBERATELY VIOLATING LAW AND PREVENTING PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT AND USE OF

UN PROPERTY BY GENERAL PUBLIC."
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